

FEATURES

Rich Japanese favour imported cars for prestige

By Ikuo Anai
Reuter

IWAKI, Japan — Japan sold the world 5.6 million vehicles last year, but in this northern Japanese city Mitsuo Okada profits from the prestige of foreign cars.

Okada Motor Company Limited, a 19-year-old family business with a staff of four, sells only three or four cars a year, mainly Mercedes-Benz from West Germany. The price of each would buy 15 to 20 sub-compact Japanese cars.

"My customers include doctors, nightclub owners and Yakuza (gangster) bosses who can readily afford to pay 15 million yen (\$16,400) for a four-door Mercedes," Okada said.

"They favour big imported cars for the sake of social status and a Yakuza boss wants to impress his

rivals," he said.

Most of the imported cars sold in Japan come from West Germany — Volkswagen, Mercedes and BMW in that order.

Imports from the United States slumped by half from 1981 to 1982, making up only 10 per cent of the 35,500 foreign cars shipped to Japan last year.

Okada blamed the sinking popularity of American cars on moves by troubled U.S. carmakers to copy Japanese cars. "My customers who don't care about fuel efficiency are disappointed that American cars are no longer American," he said.

Okada, who stopped importing American cars three years ago, said his customers used to buy them for their powerful engines.

"But you can guess their shock when their American cars were easily outpaced on the highway by

2,000 cc Japanese models," he said. "They couldn't tolerate it."

Okada said that Japanese small cars were superior in quality and performance to U.S. models.

But Kenji Kawai, spokesman for Ford Motor Company (Japan) Limited, a wholly-owned subsidiary in Tokyo of the second largest U.S. car maker, disagreed that quality was the reason for declining U.S. sales in Japan.

"The main factor is the foreign exchange rate," Kawai said, referring to the yen's steep depreciation against the dollar last year, which made American cars more expensive for Japanese buyers.

Okada has been highly critical of tight government quality restrictions on both domestic cars and imports.

He published a book last July attacking the Transport Ministry's

regulation that domestic-made cars undergo meticulous and costly mechanical inspections every two years.

Okada also was the first person to lodge a complaint with the office of trade Ombudsman, set up in January last year as part of government measures to give foreign manufacturers wider access to Japanese markets.

Okada complained that when he tried to take delivery of imported cars he had problems getting them cleared by customs officials.

"They work on individual whims rather than from established standards," he said.

He said he protested to the Ombudsman after officials at Tokyo Airport refused to release two Mercedes until he had removed fire extinguishers and first-aid kits on the grounds that they, not the cars, did not meet local

standards.

To alleviate persistent criticism from the United States and the European Community over Japan's large trade surpluses with them, the government announced last month new measures designed to make its safety and operating standards more equitable for imported goods, including cars.

On cars, the government said legislation would be revised to simplify procedures for certifying that foreign-made cars met Japanese safety and operating standards.

Foreign manufacturers have complained that the current system is time consuming, costly and a major impediment to importing cars into Japan.

The new regulations will ease the present "type designation system" under which inspection of

each car of a model is not required if three samples and lengthy documentation have been approved.

Government officials said that under the proposed revisions the costs would be cut by requiring submission of only one sample car and simplified documents. The time taken to qualify for approval would be cut from about seven months to 10 weeks.

The Japan Automobile Importers' Association has welcomed the move, but said it was too early to tell what effect it would have on foreign car sales.

One association official, noting that foreign cars sell in Japan for about twice the price of their Japanese equivalents, said: "If their prices fell to around the levels of Japanese cars of the same type, customers would often choose the imported car."

Vibrations from Japan

By Roy Garner

TOKYO: "Body sound" could be the next consumer fad to sweep Japan. The first product on the scene was a stereo-equipped armchair, and now, newly arrived, is stereo-conscious clothing: "Sound-wear".

Audio makers, struggling in a new-saturated consumer market, have decided that it is no longer enough for us just to listen to music, we should also be able to "feel" it.

Pioneer was the first company to convert the concept into a consumer product with a reclining armchair called "Body-sonic," launched last August, which features stereo speakers inside the headrest and number of in-built voice-coil amplification devices designed to send vibrations produced by the music tingling right through the body.

The company is already selling over 1,000 of the devices each month in the form of customised car seats installed as 50,000 yen (\$211.40) optional extras in the new Honda "City" car.

Pioneer's latest product is even more of a novelty, however, but one which could produce more social discord than harmony. Launched on April 21 under the brand name "Sound Wear," it consists of a sleeveless ski-type jacket with water-resistant speakers built into the shoulders and wires feeding internally to a "Walkman" stereo set in one pocket and a "sound booster" in the other.

Having donned this sound wear, the user is offered the benefits of unobstructed movement, and the absence of headphones, while at the same time being able to listen to his, or her, favourite sounds.

The inventor of "Sound Wear," and manager of Pioneer's product planning department, Mr. Hiroshi Soma, stressed that power output has been limited to a capacity of 0.76 watts, and a "mute" switch has been added to the amplifier unit to minimise irritation to others. An appeal to the user to be socially conscious is also to be added to the sales brochure.

Initially, Pioneer is to make 5,000 jackets per month, selling for 22,000 yen each. The amplifier costs 10,000 yen extra, but any of the numerous "Walkman" type portable stereo units can be plugged into the outfit, which will keep down overall costs to the user.

It will be marketed through motoring stores and sportswear shops. The company plans to boost production levels at an early date, and other makers are expected to join the field soon.

Soma pointed out that with sales of "Walkman" units currently at 5 million in Japan, the potential market was considerable. Of the 12 million total "Walkman" units made in Japan last year, 9.8 million were exported, reflecting the additional promise of a large export opportunity.

Soma claimed that a key to the enjoyment of the new jacket was the fact that sound escaping from the rear of the special disc-shaped speakers was conducted through the bones of the body, allowing one literally to "feel" the music. It is in this way, he says, that even motorcyclists (the main initial "target" customer) travelling at 80 kph, and wearing a helmet, will be able to hear the music clearly.

The idea of "noise which goes right through you" seems destined to acquire a new meaning in Japan this year.

— Financial Times news feature

Tokyo aims to control the country's loan sharks

By Ikuo Anai
Reuter

TOKYO (R) — The alarming consequences of a law allowing Japanese money lenders to charge up to 10.5 per cent annual interest on loans have prompted parliament to pass new legislation to deal with unscrupulous loan sharks.

According to a recent police survey, an average of 20 Japanese disappear from their neighbourhoods every day because they cannot pay their debts.

Another survey by the newspaper Asahi Shimbun found that on average two people commit suicide each day, sometimes in family suicide pacts, because of their indebtedness.

Despite the human tragedy pol-

iticians have been reluctant to revise the 30-year-old laws allowing such high charges and only now, after failing to vote on seven previous bills in the past decade, has Japan's parliament finally approved legislation to be enforced later this year.

The new law will lower the interest rate ceiling at first to 7.3 per cent and to 4.0 per cent in five years' time.

It gives the authorities power to suspend a money-lending business and forces the lenders, or Sarakin as they are known, to register before starting a business and to give details of loans.

At present almost anyone can set up a money lender and at the end of last year 209,000 had registered voluntarily although only half of them were believed to be active. Under the new law, convicts will not be allowed to go into

business for three years after completing their term.

The original law of 1954, which set the interest ceiling at 10.5 per cent, was introduced at a time when demand from individuals was low and commercial banks concentrated on lending to industry in the post-war reconstruction period.

But as living standards rose in the 1960s and early 1970s, money lenders proliferated to meet the rising demand for consumer finance.

Professor Shozo Ueda of Kansei University in Osaka, a recognised authority on the Sarakin industry, had estimated the money lenders were owed 3.000 billion yen (\$12.6 billion) at the end of 1981.

Left-wing opposition parties and the Japanese Bar Association have attacked the new law, int-

roduced by the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, as lukewarm and ineffective in dealing with the debt tragedies.

The problems usually begin with the smaller Sarakin shops which take on the riskiest loans but charge the highest rates of interest and consequently have the highest default rate.

They use pressure, including threats of violence, to recover their money. A common tactic is repeated visits to the borrower's home with demands for repayment loud enough for neighbours to hear.

The new law tries to define and outlaw threats and pressure tactics and the larger and more responsible consumer finance companies are hoping it will drive the more disreputable loan sharks out of business.

Sanwa Bank introduced the

so-called "quick loan" last year with a ceiling of 500,000 yen (\$21,100), but no other banks have followed suit.

Professor Ueda has estimated that only about five million people or less than five per cent of the population use the services offered by Sarakin. But the business is highly lucrative.

Consumer finance is still relatively undeveloped in the Japanese financial system but an increasing number of credit card companies, backed by banks, and even supermarkets are joining Sarakin shops in the booming small loan market.

According to a survey by Takefuji, the share of Sarakin lenders in outstanding consumer finance jumped 56 per cent to 1,599 billion yen (\$6.7 billion) in fiscal 1982, which ended in March.

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HOME NEWS

Annual archaeology scholarship given by Italian government

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Italian government will offer an annual scholarship for Jordanian students and researchers interested in deepening their knowledge in archaeology or related artistic fields, the Italian ambassador said Thursday.

Marquis Fabrizio Rossi Longhi said the scholarship is a tribute to the memory of the late Mr. Fuad Attallah, the renowned advocate and the former president of the Archaeological Society in Amman, as a sign of strengthening of the relations between the two countries.

The choice of the successful candidates will be made by a special 10-member committee which has been set up for the purpose. The committee is chaired by His Excellency the Italian ambassador, and will comprise of the director general of antiquities at the Ministry of Tourism, the daughter and son of Mr. Attallah and a number of his friends.

The committee will either decide to grant a single eight-month fellowship or to divide the fellowship up into a maximum of four two-month grants.

The Fuad Attallah scholarship committee held its first meeting at the Italian ambassador's residence Thursday. In opening the meeting, Marquis Longhi gave a short speech in which he paid tribute to the late Mr. Attallah.

"We hope that the fellowship will encourage those who are interested in archaeology," he said. Furthermore, he expressed the hope that the fellowship will inspire more people to follow the example of Mr. Attallah who "succeeded in making his life and the lives of others more meaningful through his contributions to his society."

It is rather sad, he pointed out, that there are people who have great talent, but are not using these means to serve their society.

The late Mr. Attallah was a distinguished lawyer during the time of the British mandate. In 1949 he was appointed president of the Nabi Musa and Jerusalem Courts. Later he returned to practising law as an advocate until his death.

Senator Ahmad Al Khalil, a fellow advocate, who is also a member of the committee, told the Jordan Times that "Mr. Attallah was a prominent lawyer who was dedicated in the service of his country and his people."

"The late Mr. Attallah played an important role in enhancing relations between the people of Jordan and Italy," he added.

Swiss consul to give goodbye party

AMMAN (J.T.) — Swiss consul in Amman Max Wegmueller will give a farewell party Wednesday to mark the end of his assignment in Jordan and his transfer to another post. Al Ra'i newspaper reported Thursday.

Mr. Wegmueller has served as first secretary and consul in Jordan for the last five years. During his term, he was active in developing commercial and cultural relations between Jordan and Switzerland.

Bank approves loans for school building

IRBID (Petra) — The Development Bank for Municipalities and Villages (DBMV) has approved a JD 10,000 loan to the Ajloun municipality to construct a reservoir. It also approved a JD 12,000 loan to the Hour village council, a JD 18,000 loan to the F'ura village council, and a JD 16,000 loan to the Habka village council in the Irbid Governorate to cover the cost of constructing school buildings in these villages.



Her Highness Princess Basma receives a bouquet after delivering an address to a ceremony organised by the Jordanian Nurses and Midwives Association

at the Palace of Culture which she patronised as the associations honorary chairperson (Petra photo)

Club to help with employment for women in Jordan Valley

By Afifah A. Kaloti
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Club for Business and Professional Women Thursday toured various areas of the Jordan Valley aiming to familiarise itself with the conditions of working women there.

The club's members met 15 women representing the various professional sectors working in different parts of the Jordan Valley, and discussed the possibility of establishing a number of projects. The projects discussed aim at securing an income for many of the women resident there, as well as a way for them productivity to pass the time.

The club's President, Mrs. Hind Abdul Jaber, suggested many such ideas which could be implemented in cooperation with working women and cooperative societies in the Jordan Valley. Projects proposed included the reviving of the local heritage through the encouragement of handicrafts and the marketing of seasonal ag-

icultural products.

The women from the Jordan Valley showed their willingness to take part in such ventures, and were particularly enthusiastic about developing embroidery, weaving and carpet-making as well as activity in the food industry.

Mrs. Abdul Jaber pointed out that the Jordan Valley visit is part of the club's plans to support the working woman wherever she lives "and to fulfil her needs in all possible ways."

At the end of the meeting it was agreed that the club would prepare a comprehensive study on the subject discussed, and in due course would present it to the working women in the Jordan Valley enabling them to embark upon the project.

During the one-day visit of the club to the Jordan Valley, they were acquainted with problems related specifically to rural women, and in particular their work.

The club members now know

that women in the area show a great understanding, a strong will and a sincere desire to improve their livelihood and other conditions," Mr. Abdul Jaber said.

The club has drawn up a working plan including activities aimed at "providing incentives and encouraging Jordanian women to perform community related duties, as well as to utilize their professional and intellectual capabilities both for constructive work and continued endeavours to raise their educational and professional standards," she stressed.

Mrs. Abdul Jaber said that the club will participate in the international conference for the Association of Women's Professional and Business Clubs to be held in Washington from July 31 to Aug. 5.

The club, she pointed out, is currently preparing a study on "women's contribution in the development of industrial, commercial and agricultural activity, and the conditions of working women and the impact of professional women on the economy of Jordan."

The study, which is being prepared in cooperation with the Ministry of Social Development, will be submitted to the Women's Centre in the U.S.A. who will forward it as a regional study to the third International conference for women to be held in Nairobi in 1988.

Economists elect new managing board

AMMAN (Petra) — The general assembly of the Jordanian Economists Association (JEA) Thursday elected a new managing board for the next two years. Hassem Al Dabbas was elected president, Ismail Al Armoori vice-president, Usameh Al Azab secretary general, and Mazin Al Nasir as its next treasurer. Ahmad Qasem, Assem Al Hindawi and Hanna Hattar were elected to serve as ordinary members.

Security Directorate holds Al Isra' Wal Mi'raj celebrations

AMMAN (Petra) — Public Security Director Lt.-Gen. Mohammad Idris patronised Thursday the directorate's celebrations marking Al Isra' Wal Mi'raj. Several speakers, including Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Ministry Under-Secretary Abdul Salam Al Abbadi, spoke in detail about the occasion and called on Muslims to return to the tolerant teachings of Islam in order to liberate the occupied Arab territories.

Other speakers included Ali Al Faqir of the armed forces Mufti Department and Lt.-Col. Ibrahim Harb of the Public Security Directorate, who emphasised the significance of this occasion.

The NAAA is considered as the



The Public Security Directorate Thursday celebrates the feast of Al Isra' Wal Mi'raj (Petra photo)

Lebanon pact near completion

(Continued from page 1)

On his return to Beirut, Mr. Salem indicated that Syria's rejection would not affect Lebanon's plan to sign the agreement.

"While we know that Syria does not accept this agreement, we also know that Lebanese-Syrian relations are solid," he said.

... President Assad raised several questions, some about the effect of the agreement on Lebanon and others about Lebanese-Syrian relations and Lebanese-Arab relations.

"Each agreement has interpretations. There is a Syrian interpretation, with which we differ."

Mr. Salem added: "This agreement ensures an Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon. Neither Syria nor any other Arab state has suggested alternatives. We feel the benefit to Lebanon of an Israeli withdrawal outweighs the price."

Tuesday appeared to be the earliest date on which the agreement could be signed.

Israeli officials said Prime Minister Menachem Begin wanted the Knesset to vote on the agreement, even though the constitution did not stipulate parliamentary approval.

A vote is due on Monday and since the Labour opposition is

expected to abstain, approval seems almost certain.

The government approved the draft in principle last week but asked for clarifications on "security" arrangements. The Foreign Ministry said Thursday it had now received these.

The officials said the agreement would probably be signed at two ceremonies, one in the Israeli border town of Kiryat Shmona and one in Kahlid, south of Beirut. These were the principal venues for the negotiations.

In New York, former Israeli Defence Minister Ariel Sharon said Syria is reluctant to leave Lebanon because it would lose a half billion dollars in "taxes" a year it levies on the hashish trade in the Bekaa Valley.

The Labour Party said that while it was conducting its opposition to the government at home, Mr. Sharon was "slandering" the decisions of his own ruling Likud coalition abroad.

"This shows the general anarchy in the government," the statement added.

Mr. Sharon, the architect of Israel's invasion of Lebanon last year, was stripped of his defence portfolio by an Israeli judicial inquiry into last September's Beirut massacre of Palestinian refugees. He is now a minister without portfolio.

Hassan off to U.S.

(Continued from page 1)

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel's opposition Labour Party Thursday adopted as its theme "The U.S. and the Arab World: Partners for Peace."

The conference will include debates and seminars as well as speeches that will discuss Arab-American relations, the situation in Lebanon, the Arab-Israeli conflict, the Palestinian problem and the chances of peace in the Middle East.

More than 1,500 participants from the United States, including six congressmen and two state governors are attending the conference, apart from invited dignitaries.

The NAAA is considered as the

major Arab political lobby in the United States to promote Arab causes and rights.

Before the Crown Prince's departure from Amman, His Highness Prince Abdullah Ibn Hussein, the King's eldest son was sworn in as the Regent.

Prince Hassan was seen off at Amman Airport by Prince Abdullah, Prime Minister Mudar Badran, Royal Court Chief Ahmad Al Lawzi, Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ibn Zaid, Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief Lt.-Gen. Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker, Chief Islamic Justice Ibrahim Al Otaani, cabinet members and the American ambassador to Jordan, Richard Vets.

Committee officials said that they will contact the refugees both in and outside their camps and urge them not to receive these cards, "because such an action by the UNRWA is a stab to the Palestinian cause, which is now passing through its most critical phase."

The committee also reaffirms the refugees' categoric refusal to receive the new identity cards and strongly denounces the UNRWA attempt to classify the refugees into different categories, because "such a classification is harmful to the Palestinian cause," the spokesman said.

The committee again called on the UNRWA to immediately suspend such action, "so that it would not take part in the political onslaught unleashed by Israel and its supporters against the Palestinians."

A proclamation was then issued

Zaben: Jordan suffering from shortage of nurses

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Highness Princess Basma said Thursday that the rise in the standards of health in the country and the drop in the rate of infant mortality reflects the great effort being made by the country's health workers.

Princess Basma was addressing a ceremony organised by the Jordanian Nurses and Midwives Association (JNMA), which she patronised in her capacity as honorary chairperson of the JNMA, at the Palace of Culture at the Hussein Youth City.

Princess Basma asserted that nursing is a mission rather than a profession, based on a belief in noble, humanitarian goals. She also said that World Nursing Day, which Jordan is currently celebrating, should become an annual occasion in which nurses are

honoured, and which should act as an example to encourage young men and women to join this worthy mission.

Earlier, Acting Health Minister Mohammad Addoub Al Zaben made a speech asserting that Jordanian nurses have continually proved their level of efficiency and have won the respect and appreciation of everyone mainly because nursing involves difficult work requiring a continuous sacrifice.

Dr. Zaben said Jordan is still suffering from an acute shortage

of nurses and that the number of nurses is as low as 1,205 while the number of midwives in the whole country stands at just 273.

The government has tackled the problem by opening nursing schools, and the Education Ministry has introduced nursing in 10 secondary schools, enabling students to graduate with a nursing certificate, he said. There are three nursing schools in the country which turn out 150 nurses every year and the government is providing incentives for young men and women to join the profession, he added.

Among these incentives are the increasing of salaries, the provision of appropriate housing, an increase in the ratio of nurses to allowances, and scholarships enabling them to study both at home and abroad, he said.



Her Highness Princess Basma Thursday presents an award to a nurse in recognition of her length of service at a ceremony organised by the Jordanian Nurses and Midwives Association (Petra photo)

Tal, Eager meet on improving UNICEF, ministry relations

AMMAN (Petra) — Education Minister Sa'id Tal met here Thursday the regional director of the United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF) in Beirut, Charles Eager. They discussed ways of developing cooperation between

the ministry and the UNICEF.

Dr. Tal briefed the UNICEF official on the efforts being made by the ministry to promote improved economic and social conditions for students by fulfilling their basic social and health needs.



Education Minister Sa'id Tal (left) Thursday meets the regional director of the United Nations Children Fund Charles Eager (Petra photo)

Committee prepares for Palestinian Folklore Day celebration on July 1

By Lamis Andoni
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Preparations are underway in Jordan and in 24 other countries to mark the Palestinian Folklore Day which will take place on July 1.

The announcement was made by the general secretary of the Palestinian Folklore Day Nimer Sarhan Thursday. Mr. Sarhan, who was speaking at a press conference at the Jordanian Writers Association office, pointed out the objectives of the committee in staging the cultural events in Jordan during the first three days of July.

The committee, he said, was founded in 1981 on the initiative of the Palestinian Folklore Encyclopaedists in Amman, and with the support of the General Union of Palestinian Writers and Journalists in Beirut.

A proclamation was then issued by the committee announcing the first of July as the Palestinian Folklore Day. On that day, the proclamation stated, activities that project the Palestinian culture and heritage will be held.

The committee objectives,

however, go far beyond the organisation of cultural activities on Folklore Day. For the main aim of the committee is "the preservation and consolidation of the Palestinian cultural identity" and to defend and resist "the Zionist forces which forge and falsify the Palestinian heritage."

Mr. Sarhan pointed out that there are 49 branches of the committee spread in 24 countries around the world.

Former prime minister Abdul Munim Rifai is the honorary chairman of the Jordanian committee which comprises 78 members.

Mr. Sarhan explained that the 49 branches collect documents and studies on the Palestinian heritage. He added that the committee branch in Leningrad has collected a series of studies that were made by the Russian Imperial Research Centre on the Arab cities of Jerusalem and Bir Shaba long before the Bolshevik Revolution of 1917. While the French branch of the committee intends to translate the Palestinian Folklore Encyclopaedia, edited by Mr. Sarhan, into French.

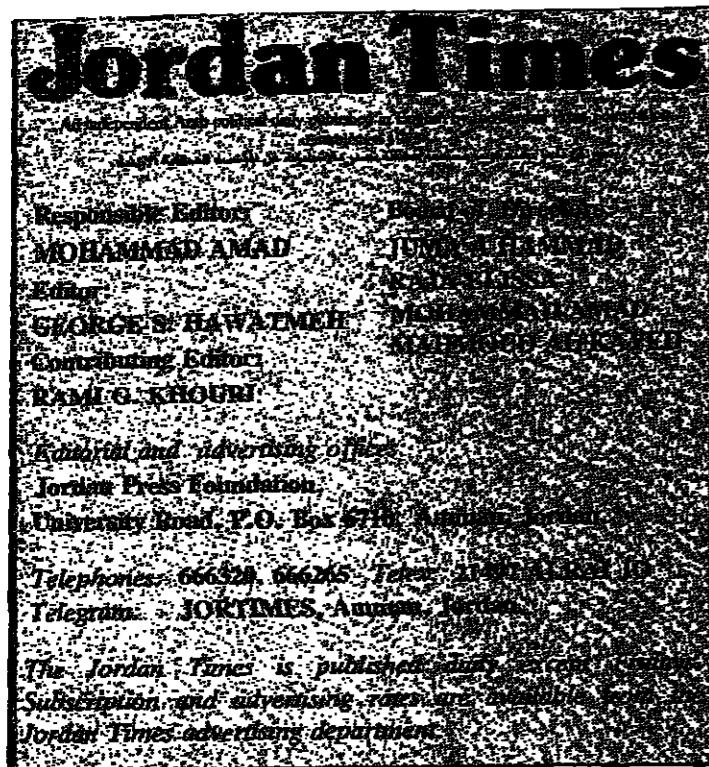
Mr. Sarhan affirmed that the committee is "independent, and has no connection with any government on any political organisation".

Mrs. Monia Samara, the public relations officer of the Jordanian committee, said that all work undertaken is based on personal initiative. Therefore she urged concerned people to render more support for the committee.

One of the major obstacles faced by the committee, she admitted, is the lack of sufficient funding. "We depend solely on contributions and luckily there are many people who believe in the cause of the committee and so contribute with both their time and money. For this we are deeply appreciative", she said.

That does not mean however, Mrs. Samara added, that "further support and involvement by a greater number of people is needed."

The programme organised by the committee for July 1 includes a Palestinian costume and fashion show, seminars and debates on the Palestinian heritage, an evening of folk dancing and songs plus many other activities.



What comes next?

THE debate in the Arab World about the acceptability of the agreement for Israel's withdrawal from Lebanon is one of the strangest things we have witnessed in a very long time. Some Arab parties say the agreement is the best that can be hoped for at the moment, and thus should be supported and quickly implemented to free Lebanon from direct Israeli occupation. Others counter that the accord is unacceptable because it provides for a residual Israeli presence in southern Lebanon which is seen as allowing Israel to enjoy a political gain that it did not secure in its invasion of Lebanon.

The options are all imperfect. If Israel withdraws according to the agreement, it will have added Lebanon to the list of Arab states that it has neutralised. If the withdrawal accord is not implemented because of Syrian or Palestinian refusal to go along with it, the strong possibility remains that Israel will simply withdraw to a line somewhere near Sidon, in south Lebanon, thereby dividing Lebanon into a series of zones under the control of assorted Lebanese factions as well as under Israel and the Syria-Palestinian forces.

Thus it seems that the Arabs have to pick the best of a bad selection of options. One important aspect of the withdrawal agreement that the United States secretary of state negotiated between Israel and Lebanon is whether or not it indicates a better American approach to mediation in the Middle East. If there is convincing proof that the American effort in formulating this agreement is the forerunner of similar efforts in the near future to moderate Israeli demands and spur a negotiating process based on mutual recognition by Palestinians and Israelis, then it would seem worth the risk to support this agreement to put the Lebanon issue behind us and get back to the more central issue of Palestinian-Israeli coexistence. To argue about the advantages that Israel gains from the withdrawal accord while Israel now occupies half of Lebanon seems a rather hollow argument. The more important issue remains whether this withdrawal agreement can lead to further fruitful negotiations.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Arabs should back Lebanon

THE withdrawal accord on Lebanon is receiving its final touches, and it is expected to be signed Friday during the Israeli-Lebanese meeting in Natanya. The Syrian capital meanwhile has witnessed intensified contacts by Lebanese Foreign Minister Elie Salem with Syrian officials aimed at creating a suitable climate for the implementation of the accord that calls for the withdrawal of all non-Lebanese forces from Lebanon.

If the Lebanese minister succeeds in his task, this will leave Israel with no excuses for staying in Lebanon especially under the pretext that the Syrians are responsible for such a continuation. Israel, since U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz left Damascus, has tried to build up a propaganda campaign to the effect that Syria, should it occur, is responsible for the failure of the Shultz proposals, and that Syria is concentrating its troops in the Bekaa Valley.

Lebanon is at a critical stage in its history, and it is the duty of all Arabs to help Lebanon restore its sovereignty and territorial integrity. This in turn will concentrate efforts on the central issue of the Palestinian people's rights. It is hoped that the overall national interests of the Arab Nation will be given priority by the Syrians over the machinations of the superpowers which continually try to assert their presence in the region. Lebanon should be backed to the hilt by the Arabs so that Israel may not continue to manipulate the time factor for its own interests.

Al Dustour: How to end the tragedy

THE Lebanese government seems certain to sign the accords reached through U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz's peace efforts to engineer an Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon. Yet, there is still some Arab opposition to the accords, particularly from Syria. In Natanya, Monday, the accords will be signed to then be referred to the Lebanese parliament for ratification.

Lebanese Foreign Minister Elie Salem's visit to Damascus aims at softening the Syrian position towards the accord, especially given the negative consequences which it has had among which are the strengthening of the rejectionist attitude towards it in the Lebanese Parliament, and the increasing of tensions in the Shouf mountains and even in Beirut itself.

An Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon will end part of the tragedy. The ending of the rest of the problems needs Arab support to convince Syria to help Lebanon regain its sovereignty and security. This needs perseverance on the side of the Lebanese government, a quality it has proved to be in possession of in abundance during the Lebanese-Israeli negotiations. It remains for the Arabs, who badly let Lebanon down in wartime, to fulfil their national duties in peacetime in its search for peace with both itself and its neighbours. A tortured Lebanon with sectional hostilities and chaos reigning will always be a source of tragedy in the Arab World, therefore the Arabs at least in part have a responsibility to make sure such tragedies do not return.

Sawt Al Shaab: Israel's systematic plan

ISRAEL has manipulated the U.S. peace efforts to arrive at an agreement on Lebanon which serves its annexationist aims on relation to the occupied Arab territories. No recognising the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, Israel is using every available situation to realise its aim of usurping the Palestinian's land. An intensified drive for settlement building on the occupied territories has been pursued by the Israeli authorities, and threats against the Palestinians' existence and their Islamic heritage are increasing.

A real danger to the safety of the Aqsa Mosque is intensified through Israel's decision to permit settlers to enter the mosque and pray in its vicinity. Israel wants Palestine without the Palestinians, and waves of systematic terrorism against them are being launched day after day. Life for those under occupation is made unbearable with the aim of forcing them out of their national land. If tireless attempts are made by the Zionists to divert the public's attention from what Israel is doing on the occupied territories, it is those who are living under threat and are clinging heroically to their national soil that the world should look to for the real answers.

VIEW FROM AMERICA

Roots of historical hatred is still alive

Yesterday the wires carried news that fighting had once again broken out between Chinese and Vietnamese troops along their frontier. And for weeks now, the wires have been reporting the heavy Vietnamese offensive against Cambodian forces opposed to the Vietnamese-installed government in Phnom-Penh. These events again remind us that deep historical hatred among people who have lived close to each other for years still remains the source of so many bloody conflicts in the world.

The deep historical hatred between Chinese and Vietnamese is well known in East Asia. That has puzzled many people from the West. They ask: Do not both peoples share a common culture and civilisation? The answer is substantially: Yes. Probably as

much as 90 per cent of the words in the Vietnamese language are of Chinese origin. Though now written in Latin letters, until a century ago or so, Vietnamese wrote in Chinese or used Chinese characters to express the 10 per cent of their words not of Chinese origin. Just like Chinese, Vietnamese are deeply affected by the great Confucian philosophy, perhaps more so than any other non-Chinese people of the Far East. Vietnam's father of his nation, Ho Chi Minh used classical Chinese to write poetry of great passion. Yet not only do the two governments hate each other, but hatreds go deep among the ordinary people.

The same is substantially true of the relationship between Vietnamese and Cambodians. Most Cambodians are terrified that the bloody Pol

Pot regime could return, yet this, apparently, has not erased as deep a loathing of the Vietnamese who now occupy their country. Here the cultural traditions are quite different. Cambodians are Buddhist, and their culture like their script remains deeply influenced by the great wave of Hindu civilisation that went east from India some two thousand years ago. Yet in life style, racially, and in other ways there are affinities between the two peoples. Many Vietnamese are as devoutly Buddhist as the Cambodians. Yet the hatreds are fierce, both between governments and peoples.

One can find similar kinds of hatreds throughout the world. Consider Yugoslavia, whence my father's ancestors came. Two peoples, Serb and Croat, speak identical languages, share similar cultures, though

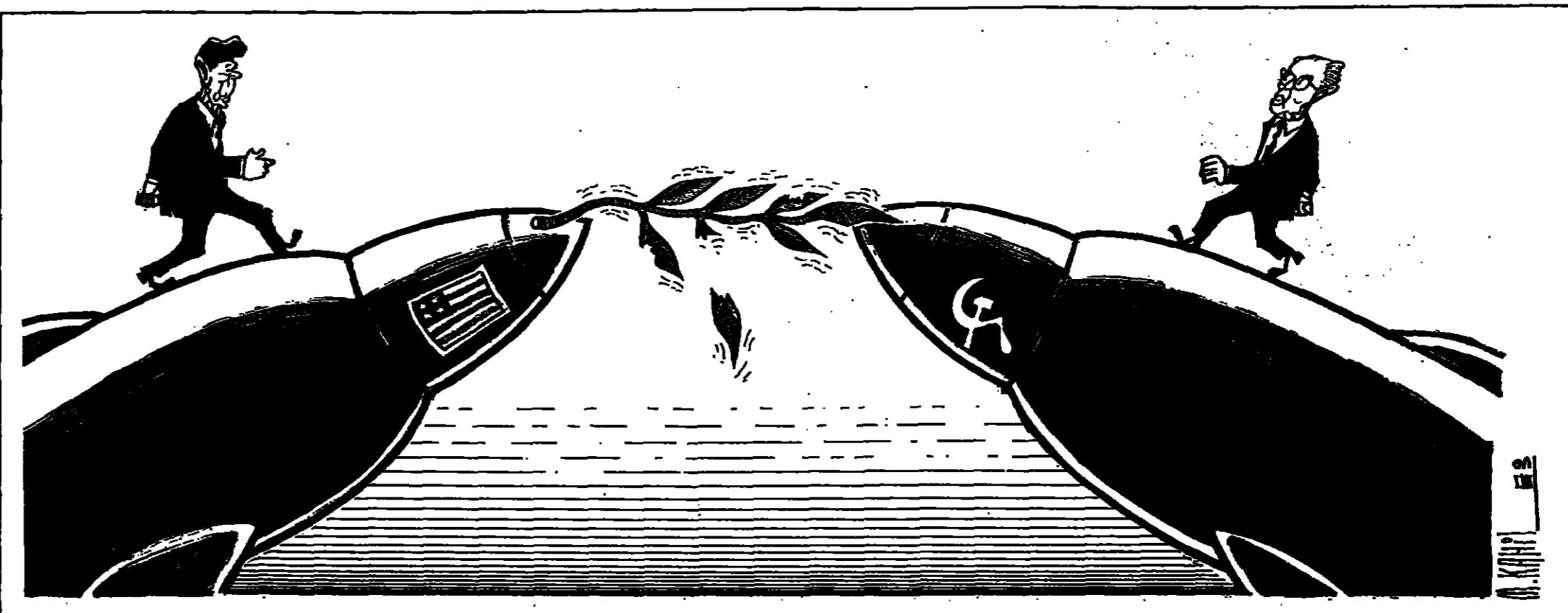
differ in religion. Yet the hostility between them remains as great as it has been in the past, and many fear a revival of the terrible blood-letting between the two peoples that took place during World War II.

We might consider that some of the bloodiest wars in human history have been civil wars. And that is true of our own American Civil War (1861-1865) in which a half-million people were killed, the second bloodiest war in the 19th century after China's Taiping Rebellion which too was a massive civil war.

Why does brother hate brother with such a passion for blood that some of the greatest human tragedies in our history have resulted from that? Is it just the jealousy of a Cain for the favoured brother Abel? No, there would appear to be

more involved.

Reflection on human history suggests that almost always something much more than the human angers between Cain and Abel are involved. The words religion or ideology or doctrines come to mind. In European history, the bloodiest wars were actually called the "wars of religion" (France in the 1500's and Germany in the early 1600's). The war between Hitler's Germany and Stalin's Russia was a war of two religions, to speak: one Nazism and the other Communism. Hitler, whose picture hung in all German homes like some saint, was manufactured into a god, just as Stalin whose picture too hung in Soviet homes. So too the Emperor of Japan who, like Hitler and Stalin, had been turned into a god by the Western-style imperialism which Japan adopted.



Europe preparing to deploy U.S. missiles

By John Rogers
Reuters

LONDON — To a swelling chorus of dissent, Western Europe is preparing to deploy American missiles targeted at the Soviet Union from late this year.

Hopes that deployment of NATO's new nuclear weapons can still be averted — thus defusing domestic opposition — are pinned on U.S.-Soviet negotiations, which resume in Geneva next Tuesday, to limit medium-range missiles in Europe.

The talks, so far deadlocked, are working to a deadline of next December, when NATO is committed under a 1979 decision to start deploying up to 572 cruise and Pershing-2 missiles in West Germany, Britain, Italy, Belgium and the Netherlands.

Agreement at Geneva on a total ban on land-based medium-range missiles, which would enable the alliance to drop its basing plan in return for Moscow scrapping its own missile arsenal, appears unattainable.

Deployment of at least some of the missiles is inevitable without major concessions which neither side has so far been ready to make, diplomats believe.

Deployment of the first of 464 slow, low-flying cruises would start in Britain in December while the first Pershings are being ins

talled in West Germany, the only country for which this faster variant is earmarked.

If all the missiles were deployed under the NATO plan, West Germany would receive 108 Pershings and 96 cruises. Britain would take 160 cruises, Italy 112, and Belgium and the Netherlands 48 each.

Belgians, Dutch undecided

West Germany, Britain and Italy have taken firm decisions to deploy missiles if necessary, but Belgium and the Netherlands, while supporting the NATO policy, have delayed a final, formal stand until the outcome of the Geneva talks is known.

National politics, as well as the Geneva negotiations and the state of U.S.-Soviet relations, could affect the basing plans.

An upset in British general elections next month could produce a Labour government opposed to the NATO scheme. In the Netherlands, the coalition government faces problems in mustering a majority in favour of siting the missiles.

Anti-nuclear campaigns are gaining strength across Western Europe, and the nuclear debate is expected to intensify as the December deadline approaches.

Reuter correspondents assess

the preparations and problems this way:

— London: British officials say the first concrete missile shelter, equipped with 75-ton doors, should be ready next month at Greenham Common Base, 50 miles (80 kilometres) West of London, where the first 16 cruises will be installed in December.

Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's Conservative Party appears likely to win the June 9 general election and the government is confident it can deploy the cruises on schedule, the officials say.

No timetable has been disclosed for stationing the next flight of 16 missiles.

The opposition Labour Party is pledged to scrap all nuclear weapons and U.S. bases in Britain and will make the nuclear debate a major campaign issue.

Although most Britons favour the country's own independent nuclear deterrent force, opinion polls show a majority opposed to the cruises. Many are worried that Britain would not have adequate control of their use.

Greenham Common, site of a permanent women's "Peace camp", is the main target of demonstrations led by the fast-growing Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND).

Thatcher, declaring the Conservatives "the true peace movement," has launched a government drive to counter the anti-nuclear campaign.

Greens plan hunger strikes

If missiles are stationed, the anti-nuclear Greens Party plans hunger strikes and blockades of U.S. bases, although the government has not announced where the weapons will be located.

Opponents of the NATO scheme say West Germany is especially vulnerable because of its frontline position and Soviet concern about the Pershing, which Moscow sees as a first-strike weapon.

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Spit in 150

JORDAN TIMES, SATURDAY MAY 14, 1983

Page 5

Are women writers still treated as a contradiction in terms?



Salwa
El Taher

"To write, or read, or think, or to inquire
Would cloud our beauty, and exhaust our time.
And interrupt the conquests of our prime,
Whilst the dull manage of a servile house
Is held by some our utmost art and use."

This verse, written by one Lady Winchelsea in 1661, was quoted by Virginia Woolf in 1929. But the amazing thing about it is that its content should still be debated in many parts of the world today. As recently as 1961, a visiting literary critic at Barnard University, USA, declared to his select audience: "Women can't be writers. They don't know about blood and guts and puking in the streets..."

It did not occur to any of the girls present to take up the speaker on this point. To explain to him, for instance, all about babies. Or to remind him of the "gutsiest" part of any war: picking up the pieces -- whatever are left of them -- after the heroes have gone.

Yet among the audience was one Erica Mann -- later Erica Jong. And, no matter how one

might personally feel about Jong's books, "Fear of Flying" and "How to Save Your Own Life" -- breaking sales records over and over again -- cannot be exactly accused of lacking guts. Ironically, the author -- leaving little to be tested or tested -- has been branded, among worst things, as "shocking".

It is no great wonder, then, that there are so few women writers, especially in the more traditional societies. For the story of women writers is closely linked to that of the emancipation of women, except that it is a more difficult and arduous one. For, if women could picket together for the right to vote, writers have to work slowly, painfully, in isolation.

As late as the nineteenth century, they had to hide their ide-

nity to use male *noms de plume*. Charlotte Bronte was Currer Bell, Mary Ann Evans, George Eliot and Lucille Aurore Dupin became George Sand. That they were not suffering from paranoiac delusions was proved by the fact that some of them had their work reviewed a second time once their identity -- their sex -- was revealed. George Eliot was all of a sudden criticised for "laying so much stress on the bodily feelings of the other sex".

As one writer puts it so well (Diana Glesner in "Breakthrough: Women in Writing") "Women were torn by an internal tug of war. The definition of a woman was in conflict with the definition of a writer."

But there were also physical obstacles to overcome. Virginia Woolf, expounding in the first half of this century on the subject of women and fiction, exhorts women to fight for their own space. In "A Room of One's Own", it is literally their own

room and a certain income -- £500 a year, she estimated, for the 1920s -- that aspiring writers should strive for. How many women today have even that much? They are still very much what she called them then: "the poor sex". A woman writer is often considered a woman-at-home; in other words, available. A man writer, on the other hand, is entitled to his splendid isolation.

And, even with a great deal of guts, a room (often a whole house) of their own, and more, much more than £500 a year, women authors who have tried to lead a "normal" life (that is, who got married and had children) have discovered that they are walking a tightrope. Diana Glesner gives us a glimpse of those "survivors" with a delightful, tongue-in-cheek humour:

"How does one handle the double demands and the pervasive guilt? With considerable difficulty. After interviewing Erica

Jong, I called home to find the orthodontist had tried unsuccessfully to reach us because our daughter was so traumatised by her new braces. My rationale -- that our teenagers would develop character during our short absences -- disintegrated. Surely, Steve was fine, sixteen, and blessed with straight teeth. The answer -- "Steve's moaning on the bathroom floor" -- did not fall in the reassuring category. The combination of fasting to make weight for a wrestling match and running six miles had not agreed with him. My careful stocking of the refrigerator was for naught. My son would starve in my absence. Who did I think I was, trying to swing a career and a family? I understood. Erica Jong's statement: "Guilt is my constant companion."

We called our North Carolina home from Santa Fe, New Mexico, after interviewing Judy Blume. At 11 p.m., we got a recorded message, "Dear Mom and Dad," a shaky voice said, "The pol-

ice are searching for an armed murderer in the area. Sue and I are staying with neighbours. What kind of a mother was I? I had never thought to leave instructions for a murderer loose-in-the- neighbourhood situation. I knew at some deep protoplasmic level what Judy Blume meant when she spoke of the conflicts of work and family.

I did not mind that my interview with Erica Jong was interrupted so she could nurse her baby. I had left the oral defence of my thesis for M.A. for the same reason.

It seemed entirely normal that my interview with Judy Blume was interrupted by (1) the Roto Rooter man (2) the plumber (3) the Roto Rooter man again (with the disappointing news that the situation was hopeless) (4) her son having lost her gasoline credit card (5) putting the roast in, (6) her husband home early to shop for snacks for an evening meeting (7) giving her daughter instructions for dinner preparations so we

wouldn't be interrupted.

When I ask a stranger at a cocktail party what he does for a living, he often returns the courtesy by asking what my husband does. Once I answered, "He's a photographer and I'm a writer," only to be asked if I wrote captions for his pictures.

But Gleasner knows better than to let a joke turn sour. The examples of successful women she provides are as varied as they can be: Erica Jong was a pampered, protected child; Erma Bombeck was raised in a poor, underprivileged community; Jessamyn West was so sick with tuberculosis she was admitted into a ward for terminal diseases; Phyllis Whitney lost both her parents and was alone in the world at 17. Yet they all made it, each in her own way, in her particular style. Another testimony to the indomitability of the spirit, a living homage to the marriage of will and

World recession and oil glut hit migrant workers

By John Rogers
Reuter

LONDON -- The world recession and oil glut have cast shadows on the future of millions of job-hungry workers who flocked from poor countries to the oil states during the boom of the seventies.

Nigeria's expulsion in January of two million illegal workers from poorer West African countries was the most dramatic effect of a slump since last autumn in oil revenues on which producers were relying to fuel ambitious development programmes.

In Latin America, the migrant labour boom has stopped and hard times are changing migration patterns.

Asian countries which count on billions of dollars sent home by migrant labourers in the Middle East to swell hard currency reserves are anxiously studying future prospects.

Experts at the International Labour Organisation (ILO) in Geneva say low-skilled construction workers are the most likely to be axed if the building boom that followed the oil price rise of the seventies is sharply curtailed, as happened in Nigeria.

The big Asian migrant population in the oil-rich Gulf states -- more than three million workers and dependents from India, Pakistan, South Korea, Bangladesh, the Philippines and Thailand -- could be hit if they are forced to cut or delay expansion.

So far, the oil glut has cast only a ripple over the tide of Asian migrants. But some experts think the Gulf states may have to cut immigration, as West European countries did when the impact of oil price rises hit their economies 10 years ago.

Third World diplomats in the Gulf say government and private employers are looking urgently for ways to cut costs, and foreign labour is likely to be one of the first casualties.

"We haven't seen any mass exodus yet, but I think in the months ahead there will be a reduction in the foreign work force," an ambassador in Saudi Arabia said. But he added it was too early to predict the size of any cuts.

Unskilled Asians would bear the brunt, but highly-trained European and American experts would not escape, diplomats said.

The giant Arabian American Oil Company (Aramco) has already announced it will prune some staff because Saudi oil output has dropped sharply.

The oil glut has prompted Saudi Arabia to announce a deficit budget for the new fiscal year. Qatar has cut spending by about 30 per cent and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) is preparing an austerity programme.

Asian government experts are so far not anticipating a sharp reversal of the "brain drain" of the seventies, which boosted the foreign work force in the Gulf to 30 per cent of the total.

But some feel more competition is likely for jobs, the labour market may become more selective and more skilled workers -- rather than manual labourers -- may be required.

Pakistan, which has 1.5 million workers in the Middle East, has set up a committee to propose training programmes that would build up a pool of skilled workers.

An Indian government committee is examining how workers can be reabsorbed into the domestic labour force if there is a sudden influx of returning migrants from the Gulf.

The Philip Morris labour minister, Blas Ople, flew to Saudi Arabia when the oil price cuts started and said his visit reassured Filipino workers.

He said Saudi leaders told him their current five-year development plan would not be affected as it was based on lower oil prices. But a few thousand Filipino workers would be going on

In recession-hit Western Europe, rising unemployment has increased resentment against foreign workers, themselves sharply affected by the economic crisis.

In France, whose socialist government has tightened immigration controls, the rate of unemployment among immigrants rose 79 per cent in the three years up to last September, compared to 44 per cent for French workers.

This was contributing to a global upsurge in "irregular migration" which made foreign workers without proper papers vulnerable to discrimination and abuses, it said.

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Middle East construction projects, employing imported labour, are likely to be cut back

home at the end of contracts in

to Oman, the UAE and Qatar.

Turkish officials say the oil price

slump has not started to bite into

Turkish labour exports to the

Middle East.

Bangladesh, however, sees no immediate threat and manpower

minister Air Vice-Marshal Amul Islam said recently: "The depression in the Middle East has not affected us at all."

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SPORTS

Prost says Monaco Grand Prix course getting faster

MONTE CARLO (R) — Faster times during a second qualifying session Saturday for the Monaco Formula One Grand Prix were produced by Renault driver Alain Prost on Friday.

Frenchman Prost, 28, the quietest man in practice so far, said the 3.312-km road circuit through the town, along the shore of the Mediterranean and round the port is "the kind that improves daily."

He added: "Everyone will be going faster and I will have to fight to keep my pole position but I have no worries."

A fierce duel for the 41st Monaco Grand Prix on Sunday is shaping up between the turbocharged Renaults and Ferraris.

But confidence was also high in the non-turbo Williams team after last practice laps by Finnish World Champion Keke Rosberg and Jacques Laffite of France.

The drivers had a rest day Friday in preparation for Saturday's session in which the number of cars to start the race will be limited from 2n to 20.

Prost had a best practice time Thursday of one minute 24.84 seconds at an average speed of

141.53 kilometres per hour.

Compatriot and former Renault team mate René Arnoux, who clocked one minute 25.18 seconds in his red-liveried Ferrari, was close behind.

The personal rivalry between Prost, joint leader of the 1983 Driver's Championship, and Arnoux who is still seeking his first win this season, has been given extra edge by the closeness of their times.

Prost said with a smile: "My intention was to turn in the fastest time. The name of the driver behind neither adds to nor detracts from my satisfaction. It would have been the same if it had been Tambay or Rosberg or Laffite."

Arnoux, delighted with the performance of his car, was also confident of improving his time. He set the fastest lap in practice last year in one minute 23.28 seconds.

The Renault of American Eddie Cheever and the Ferrari of Patrick Tambay of France were third and fourth in practice.

Laffite said the domination of the early practice by the turbo cars did not mean they would have things all their own way in the

race, the fifth of the season. "Rosberg is already on the second rank of the grid and I intend to be up there with him on Sunday," he said. "If we can qualify just behind the turbos, we will be well placed to make life interesting for them."

The Williams can have proved readily adaptable to the narrow Monaco circuit with its steep hills and tight corners.

The McLaren team duo of Britain's John Watson and Austrian Niki Lauda will be fighting for survival in the second practice session on Saturday.

Watson has been fast enough yet to qualify.

Lauda blamed traction problems for the slowness of his car, whose best time has been almost five seconds behind Prost's Renault with Watson slower still.

The McLarens were well down the field in practice for the U.S. Grand Prix at Long Beach on March 27, however, but performed brilliantly in the race which was won by Watson with Lauda second.

The teams will have 90 minutes of untimed practice before the second 60-minute qualifying round.

Cup defeat completes Real's fall from grace

GOTHENBURG, Sweden (R) — Real Madrid, once the greatest footballing power in the world, are mere mortals after all.

The former European Champions from Spain were conclusively outplayed by Aberdeen in Wednesday night's European Cup Winners' Cup final in the Ullevi stadium here and only some inspired goalkeeping by Agustín kept the score line down to 2-1 after extra time.

It was Real's 11th European final and surely their least distinguished. The six times Champions' Cup winners fell behind to a sixth minute goal from the excellent Eric Black, equalised from a Juanito penalty nine minutes later and were finally subdued when Aberdeen substitute John Hewitt, who had replaced the injured Black near the end of normal time, scored a thrilling winner in the 112th minute.

Although Black and Hewitt were the goal heroes the Man of the Match was little Gordon Strachan who controlled the game from midfield where he mesmerised the Real side with his intricate dribbling skills.

Strachan, who shot to prominence during the World Cup in Spain last summer, ignored the

torrential rain to treat the 17,804 crowd to an unforgettable exhibition.

Real, in contrast, had little to offer. Agustín had a fine match while West German Uli Stielike, who had not played since March 30 due to a leg injury, produced a good opening 45 minutes before his lack of match fitness became evident.

Striker Mark McGhee drifted out to the left and his far-flung swerving cross was met perfectly by the surging Hewitt who directed his glorious, bullet-like header into the net.

Manager Alex Ferguson was

understandably jubilant at the final whistle and said: "we had the better individuals and were the better team collectively."

"We lost a bit of momentum after the penalty but managed to get things sorted out during the half-time interval. I think we were always more intent on winning, especially in the last ten minutes."

Much of Aberdeen's success is due to 41-year-old Ferguson, who convinced his young side not to be overawed by Real's great reputation. Watching the two teams it was hard to believe Real were playing their 11th final while Aberdeen had never been past the third round in 11 previous campaigns.

But while the Spanish had the experience, it was Aberdeen who always had the ambition.

English League programme closes on a day of reckoning

LONDON (R) — Luton and Manchester City go into their final English first division soccer fixture on Saturday knowing the winner will take all.

After nine months and 41 fixtures, the League programme could not have produced a more thrilling climax to the cut-throat relegation battle which has raged over the last two months.

With Swans and Football Association (F.A.) Cup finalists Brighton already condemned to the second division next season, third-from-bottom Luton travel to City, just one place above them in the table, with the winner staying up and the loser going down. Luton manager David Pleat has

preached an attack at all costs policy throughout the year, and it is unlikely he will change his strategy now.

His side has to win. Even a draw would send them down—unless Birmingham lose by four goals at Southampton in their final match, in which case they would slip into third relegation slot.

Luton go into the clash boasting the best away goals record in the division. But their confidence has been undermined after taking just two points from their last four games.

The final day of the League programme is also a day of reckoning for second division promotion candidates Fulham and Luton.

London side Fulham have, for much of the season, looked the side most likely to go up with champions Queen's Park Rangers and Wolverhampton.

But Leicester's late run has eased them level with Fulham on points and taken them into the fateful third promotion slot on goal difference.

Now Leicester are favourites to book their passage into the first division on Saturday. They take on bottom club Burnley at home, while Fulham, whose stride towards the top flight has faltered in recent weeks, travel to lowly Derby.

But with none of the second division's relegation places settled, both Burnley and Derby will be fighting to save their skins and should be no push-overs.

Bob Paisley ends his career as Liverpool's manager at Watford and will be trying to motivate the champions to end a dismal run which has produced only one win in their last seven games.

"Kissinger has no 'recognition with FIFA,'" the spokesman said. "FIFA recognises the presidents of the federations. He (Kissinger) doesn't represent football in his country."

President Reagan Thursday night joined Kissinger, who has been chairman of the North American Soccer League (NASL), in supporting the U.S. bid to stage the 1986 finals. It was announced he had accepted chairmanship of a committee that would press the U.S. case.

Colombia were originally chosen as hosts for the 1986 finals but pulled out for economic reasons. Mexico then emerged as favourites to take over when FIFA said rival U.S. and Canadian bids "deviated too far from the terms of reference."

Mexico alert for political pressure before FIFA's decision

MEXICO (R) — Mexican soccer officials will be alert for signs of political pressure from their U.S. rivals when the International Football Federation (FIFA) decide the 1986 World Cup finals venue in Stockholm next week.

Mexico expect to be awarded the finals but a spokesman for the country's football federation said Friday that with former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger going to Stockholm they would be watching for attempts at political pressure.

"Kissinger has no 'recognition with FIFA,'" the spokesman said. "FIFA recognises the presidents of the federations. He (Kissinger) doesn't represent football in his country."

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Third-seeded Kathy Rinaldi of the United States has been unable even to complete her second-round match against Renata Tomanova of Czechoslovakia.

That match, along with the third and quarter-final matches, was scheduled for Friday but they have now been further postponed

As a result FIFA looked only at Mexican facilities and declined to send official inspection teams to the United States or Canada, a move which apparently left Mexico as sole contenders to stage the finals.

"Having visited Mexico, the special sub-committee of FIFA considers its work to be completed," FIFA said in a press statement last month.

Rafael del Castillo, President of

the Mexican Football Federation, and FIFA Vice-President Guillermo Canedo will present Mexico's case in Stockholm, the spokesman said. There will be informal discussions on Thursday followed by a FIFA executive committee the next day after which the venue will be announced.

Mexico staged the 1970 World Cup finals when 3.5 million people watched the 16-team tournament.

Swiss Open washed out

LUGANO, Switzerland (R) — Heavy rain washed out play at the \$100,000 Swiss Open here Friday.

Under normal circumstances the quarter-finals of the event would have been completed by Friday, but persistent rain since Tuesday has prevented the tournament from reaching further than the third-round stage which means they are now two rounds behind.

Third-seeded Kathy Rinaldi of the United States has been unable even to complete her second-round match against Renata Tomanova of Czechoslovakia.

That match, along with the third and quarter-final matches, was scheduled for Friday but they have now been further postponed

until Saturday.

Under the tournament guidelines set out by the Women's Tennis Association the tournament has to be completed by midnight on Monday.

If the bad weather continues the tournament will be completed indoors which will anger the sponsors putting up the prize money.

A spokesman told Reuters: "We are not interested in going indoors because the television people say the arena isn't good enough and we obviously want the maximum publicity possible."

He said the sponsors would rather the event was cancelled altogether adding "it would certainly save everyone a lot of time and money."

Noah ends Wilander's winning series

HAMBURG, West Germany (R)

— Mats Wilander of Sweden crashed to his first clay court defeat in 14 matches Friday when Frenchman Yannick Noah beat him 6-1, 6-1 in a thrilling quarter-final match at the West German Open Tennis Championships.

The defeat is a severe setback to Wilander's preparations for the defence of the French Open title later this month which he won last year as a 17-year-old.

The Swede, without ever playing badly, was outclassed by Noah, whose booming first serves found their mark time and time again.

Noah, who looked disinterested and out of touch last week in the World Team Tennis Cup in Dusseldorf and twice failed to appear for his scheduled games, bounced back to his brilliant best Friday.

He now moves into the semi-finals as one of the favourites to win the title after top seed Ivan Lendl was knocked out Thursday.

He broke straight back to 3-1 and put Noah under pressure to the rest of the set without getting the breakthrough he really needed.

But at 5-4 Noah was not to be denied of victory. He gritted his teeth and pulled out four big serves to win the game to love.

Hagler-Scypion fight scheduled for May 27

PROVIDENCE, Rhode Island (R) — Undisputed middleweight champion Marvin Hagler and fellow-American Wilfred Scypion, in defiance of both boxing's world governing bodies, will meet in a 15-round title fight here on May 27, promoter Bob Arum announced Friday.

The announcement, ironically made in the "defiance room" at a local hotel, said the fight will be sanctioned by the newly-formed United States Boxing Association International.

"I know that both the WBC and WBA will have their guns out and they will try to interfere in any way possible," Arum told a press conference. "But I hope no one will take them seriously on this."

The WBA had originally sanctioned a 15-round title fight, but then agreed to go along with the WBC which limits title fights to 12 rounds. However, in doing so, the

WBC said it would continue to recognise Hagler if he won, but not Scypion.

Hagler in turn said he would refuse to fight unless the bout was set for 15 rounds, as originally agreed upon.

The fight was scheduled for Friday but was postponed late or Tuesday because of an inflammation of Hagler's left knee which he sustained while running on a Cape Cod beach.

What promised to be a great fight is now going to be a monster event," Arum said. "We're receiving ticket orders from all over the country. The extra attention and politics hasn't hurt a bit."

Asked if either the WBA or WBC had contacted him since Hagler announced Thursday he would fight without their sanction, Arum said: "I don't care if we never hear from them."

Los Angeles judge cancels Chacon-Boza-Edwards fight

LOS ANGELES (R) — A Los Angeles superior court judge has ordered a halt to Sunday's scheduled fight in Las Vegas between World Boxing Council (WBC) super-featherweight champion Bobby Chacon of the U.S. and former champion Cornelius Boza-Edwards.

The request to stop the bout came from promoter Don King, who claimed Chacon had already signed a contract with him to defend his title in June against unbeaten Hector "Macho" Camacho. The cancelled fight, which ori-

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Portugal, S. Arabia, India set to join African bank

NAIROBI (R) — African Development Bank (ADB) representatives adopted a resolution Friday clearing the way for Portugal, Saudi Arabia and India to become its latest non-African members.

The decision, which has to be ratified by the governments of the three states, will bring the ADB's membership up to 71 countries. The ADB voted at its annual meeting in Zambia last year to allow non-African states to join the 50 African members already in the bank. The United States, Britain, France, Japan and Canada are among countries which have since joined.

Delegates at the four-day meeting, which ends Saturday, also voted to hold their next annual session in Tunisia on May 9-12 next year.

Taiwan to set up international offshore banking centre

TAIPEI (R) — Taiwan plans to set up an international offshore banking centre on its territory in an effort to become one of Asia's leading financial cities.

The centre, approved by the government in February and awaiting final sanction from parliament next month or in July, will provide tax concessions to foreign banks and a large measure of freedom from foreign exchange controls.

It will compete with existing offshore banking centres in Singapore, Hong Kong, Manila and Bahrain and possibly also with a similar centre in Tokyo.

Offshore banking centres are conglomerations of banks from around the world drawn together by the tax advantages of operating in that centre.

The proposed centre, expected to start operating early next year, has received a mixed reaction from the 27 foreign banks and six representative offices operating in Taiwan, some of whom believe its establishment is politically inspired.

Taiwan appears to want to increase its political and commercial influence, bankers believe, at a time when the country is under pressure from its arch rival, the People's Republic of China.

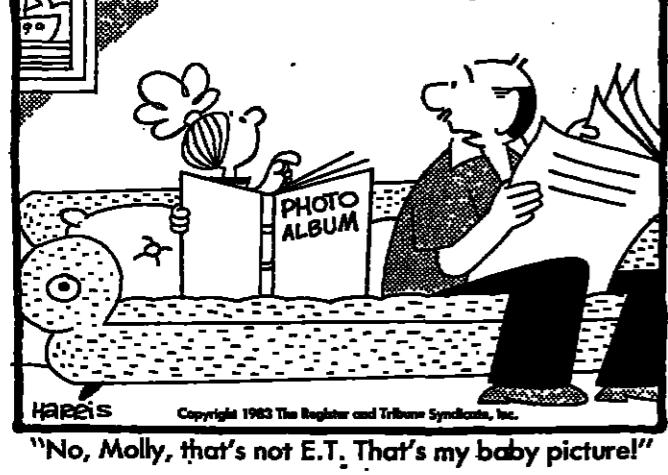
The People's Republic, which toppled Taiwan from China's seat at the United Nations in 1971, is currently trying to supplant Taiwan in the Asian Development Bank.

The establishment of the centre marks a radical change in the financial policy of Taiwan, which since its creation has maintained strict foreign exchange controls as an anti-inflationary measure.

The nationalists still remember how rampant inflation in China led to their defeat by the communists on the mainland in 1949.

"The banks have not pressed for the centre," one banker said.

THE BETTER HALF. By Harris



JUMBLE. THAT SCRABLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

BILLE

ASSOB

SOOJUY

NAITAT

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here:

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumble: CROWN BUILT FIDDLE PLOVER

Answer: What she gave him when he asked whether he could see her home—A PICTURE OF IT

NEWS IN BRIEF

Seoul seeks Saudi joint ventures

JEDDAH (OPECNA) — South Korean Finance Minister Kyong Shik Kang said here his country was keen to develop long-term joint ventures with Saudi Arabia. He told the Arab News that instead of just finishing projects and leaving, "we have to seek more far-sighted and deep-rooted ventures" in the kingdom. The minister said he had discussed with Saudi officials the establishment of a joint banking venture between the two countries.

Chile to get \$350m loan

LONDON (R) — The Bank for International Settlements has agreed to grant Chile a \$350 million bridging loan, banking sources said Friday. The loan is part of a proposed \$480 million package arranged between private banks and the Basle-based central bankers' bank to meet a Chilean cash shortage, and will be followed in July by a rescheduling of \$3.4 billion of Chile's \$17.2 billion debt. The rescheduling was agreed at the end of last month between Chile and a 12-member committee of private banks, representing about 600 creditors. It will be accompanied by \$1.5 billion of new loans.

GCC to unify customs fees

ABU DHABI (R) — The six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council will apply a new unified customs levy of between four and 20 per cent on imported goods from Sept. 1, a finance ministry official said Friday. The decision was made in Riyadh on Wednesday during a meeting of the council's finance ministers, said Mr. Ahmad Al Tayer, assistant under-secretary of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) finance and industry ministry. The council groups Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar, Kuwait, the UAE and Oman. Member states of the two-year-old council have signed an economic agreement designed to establish a common market.

OAPEC ministers to meet in Syria

ABU DHABI (OPECNA) — The ministerial council of the Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC) is to meet in Damascus on May 25. The council will discuss a report on economic and technical aspects of the proposed Algiela dry dock project and consider its budget for the next fiscal year.

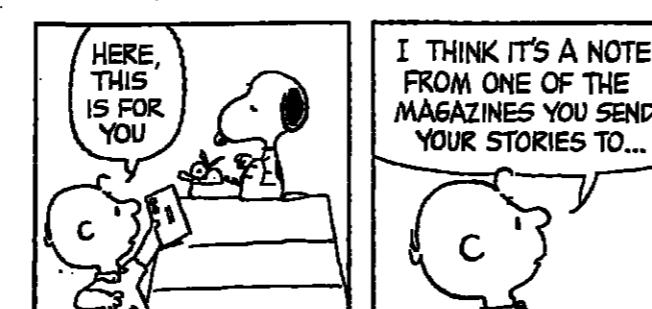
World Bank backs Yemeni project

WASHINGTON (R) — The World Bank said Thursday it has approved through its affiliate, the International Development Association (IDA), a \$19 million credit for a power project in North Yemen. The bank said in a statement the IDA credit will support a \$42.9 million project to extend electricity service to the rural areas of Ba'dan, Al Mirsakh, Marawish and Bani Hushaysh, and expand distribution networks in the cities of Sanaa, Taiz and Hodeida. The project will also receive \$1.4 million from the North Yemeni and the French General Electric Corporation; \$9 million co-financing from the Islamic Development Bank, and \$500,000 for staff training from the Arab fund.

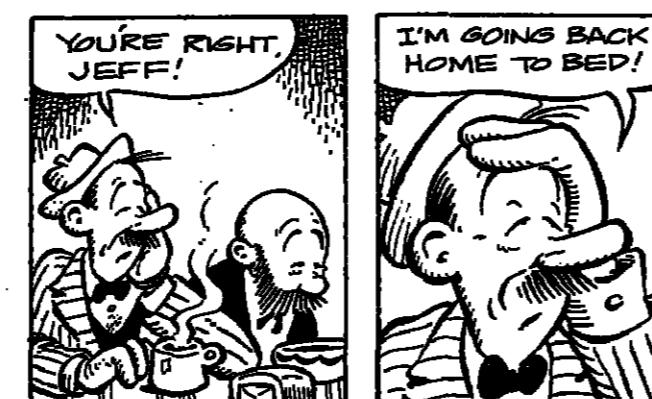
IMF reappoints De Larosiere

WASHINGTON (R) — Jacques De Larosiere, head of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), was reappointed Thursday to a second five-year term as managing director of the world lending agency. He has won both praise and criticism during his first term as head of the Washington-based organisation. De Larosiere's supporters include a number of government officials from the United States, the country that contributes the most funds to the IMF. In addition, many leading international bankers have praised him for his handling of the current world debt crisis and the speed with which the IMF has lent funds to struggling countries. But De Larosiere's critics have complained that the IMF under his leadership has frequently meddled in the internal affairs of some developing nations, forcing them to make very painful economic sacrifices in exchange for loans.

Peanuts



Mutt 'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



Swiss banks to aid watchmaking merger

ZURICH (R) — Swiss banks are to back the merger of the country's two leading watchmaking groups with 600 million Swiss francs (\$295 million) in the biggest bail-out in the history of Swiss industry, banking sources said Friday.

Algemeine Schweizerische Uhrenindustrie (ASUAG) Thursday night announced plans to combine with Societe de Suisse pour l'Industrie Horlogere (SSIH) to form the world's second-largest watchmaking concern after Japan's Seiko group.

Both Swiss firms have suffered sizable losses in recent years, and only two years ago SSIH had to be saved from bankruptcy by 300 million francs (\$148 million) of aid from the banks.

ASUAG markets Rado and Longines watches while SSIH produces Omega and Tissot. Neither group has been able to cope with worldwide over-production, tough competition from cheap producers in the Far East and the effects of recession.

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — The market closed mixed after a quiet session. Dealers said. At 1500 Friday the F.T. index was down 0.9 at 667.7.

Government bonds fell as much as 5/8 point while among mixed equities, the insurance sector weakened in reaction to some speculative selling in a thin market, dealers added.

Gold shares rallied with the bullion price to close mixed against opening lower levels. North American stocks also ended mixed.

Plessey firmed 13p to 617 in response to some U.S. demand. Glaxo recouped 60p of the recent fall at 866 and ICI was 6p higher at 450. Thorn EMI, Blue Circle, BOC and Hawker Siddeley eased between 2p and 6p.

Narwest shed 5p to 563 but other banks held steady and in lower insurances, Royal fell 10p to 503. C.E. Heath was a similar amount down at 308 while Sedgwick Group gave up 8p at 222.

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Friday.

One sterling	1.5648/58	U.S. dollars	1.2271/74
One U.S. dollar	2.4475/85	Canadian dollars	2.7560/70
	2.0300/10	West German marks	2.4888/93
	7.3665/95	Dutch guilders	7.4888/93
	1458.50/1459.50	Swiss francs	7.3665/95
	232.85/233.00	Belgian francs	1458.50/1459.50
	7.4800/50	French francs	232.85/233.00
	7.0875/0925	Italian lire	7.4800/50
	8.7175/7250	Japanese yen	7.0875/0925
One ounce of gold	438.00/438.75	Swedish crowns	8.7175/7250
		Norwegian crowns	
		Danish crowns	
		U.S. dollars	

Braniff says it will fly again

FORT WORTH.

Mr. Putnam said the agreement also needed the blessing of Braniff employees, and was contingent on the company regaining the use of "landing slots" under which planes are granted permission to use busy airports.

A Braniff statement said unsecured creditors Thursday told the airline's board of directors that "they approved in concept the Braniff-Hyatt agreement."

A previous deal between Braniff and PSA Inc., a San Diego-based airline, founders when a court upheld the refusal of the Federal Aviation Administration to give the new venture Braniff's landing slots.

Braniff had also been holding talks with Marriott, another hotel group. These discussions were terminated this week.

Under a reorganisation plan filed with the bankruptcy court last month, Braniff has until Monday to come up with a plan for preserving its role as an airline.

As an alternative, Braniff proposed selling its remaining 31 planes and reorganising as a ground-based company carrying out mostly maintenance and serving operations in Dallas.

Soviet industrial production rises

per cent rise in production during 1983 should easily be met.

Friday's Pravda report said industrial productivity had increased by 3.6 per cent during the period from January to April. This was down on the 3.9 per cent improvement registered in the first quarter.

Western economic attaches said Friday's figures indicated that the average annual growth rate would be well below four per cent if current trends continued.

HOROSCOPE NOT RECEIVED

THE Daily Crossword

by Madeline Miller

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WORLD

Latin ministers seek compromise as Nicaragua repulses rebels

PANAMA CITY (R) — In a marathon session that went into the early hours Friday morning, foreign ministers from four Latin American nations searched for ways to foster peace in war-torn Central America.

The session was the fourth round of talks between the ministers of Mexico, Venezuela, Colombia and Panama, who have vowed to bring five Central American nations to the negotiating table.

Officials had expected the gathering to end Thursday night with the release of a joint communiqué.

The ministers, the so-called "Contadora group", take their name from the Panamanian resort of Contadora where they initiated their peace process last January.

The United Nations Security Council has agreed to wait until the end of the Contadora meeting before setting a date for a new public meeting on a Nicaraguan complaint of U.S. aggression.

The diplomatic efforts took place as tension mounted between Nicaragua and its southern neighbour Costa Rica.

Thais claim Vietnamese withdrawal was a hoax

BANGKOK (R) — Vietnam sent 2,000 fresh troops into southern Kampuchea early this month, one day after it announced a partial troop withdrawal from the country. Thailand's security chief said Friday.

Squadron leader Prasong Soonsiri, secretary-general of the National Security Council, said the new Vietnamese troops, based in Kandal Province south of Phnom Penh, replaced soldiers Hanoi pulled out on May 2.

Western journalists were invited to Phnom Penh by the Vietnamese authorities to witness the pullout and saw about 1,500 soldiers leave the Kampuchean cap-

ital and cross the frontier to Vietnam.

Vietnam's ambassador to Phnom Penh, Ngo Diem, said at the time more than 10,000 Vietnamese troops would leave Kampuchea during the month-long withdrawal.

There are an estimated 180,000 Vietnamese troops in Kampuchea backing up the Heng Samrin government, installed by Vietnam after its invasion of the country in December 1978.

The foreign reporters had no way of checking whether Hanoi would replace the troops it withdrew or had done so already.

Dissident French priest barred from St. Peters

VATICAN CITY (R) — A French priest who accuses Pope John Paul II of heresy, apostasy and causing a schism was barred from saying a traditionalist Tridentine mass in Saint Peter's Basilica Friday.

Father Georges de Nantes arrived at Saint Peter's, the Pope's own church and centre of worldwide Roman Catholicism, to say mass early Friday.

But the canons—the church officials responsible for the day-to-day running of the basilica—refused him permission.

Father de Nantes' associates added.

The priest had previously ann-

ounced his intention of delivering a medieval style Latin "libelum accusationis," or formal accusation of heresy, to the Pope in person.

Later a meeting between the traditionalists and Vatican officials degenerated into a shouting match and exchange of insults, Vatican sources said.

Vatican officials said only that Father de Nantes and his group had been invited to discuss their views.

Father de Nantes accuses the Pope of being "the most powerful agent of Marxist expansion in the world."

Australia to launch full inquiry into spy scandals

CANBERRA (R) — Australia's Labour government, embarrassed by two security scandals in a week, will hold a full judicial inquiry into all aspects of the country's security services, Prime Minister Bob Hawke has announced.

It would include an examination of the relationship between expelled Soviet diplomat Valeriy Ivanov and former Labour Party national secretary David Combe, Mr. Hawke said.

The cabinet still has to work out full details of the review, Mr. Hawke told a news conference Thursday after announcing plans for the inquiry in parliament.

Mr. Ivanov, the Soviet embassy first secretary called a KGB spy by the government here, was ordered out on April 22 for what Foreign Minister Bill Hayden called unacceptable activities.

Mr. Hawke has said Mr. Combe either had been, or appeared to have been, compromised by Mr. Ivanov some time after August 1981 when he quit his party post. But Mr. Combe has denied having,

an improper relationship with Mr. Ivanov.

In the other case, the government is still involved in a high court action against a newspaper which last week started publishing top secret Australian intelligence documents until stopped by an interim injunction.

The National Times newspaper said it had tens of thousands of pages of top secret documents belonging to the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation (ASIO). ASIO gave potentially embarrassing material on leading Australians to the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), the paper said.

The lack of detail in the prime minister's statement Thursday and his order to Labour ministers to avoid contact with Mr. Combe, now a lobbyist and consultant, caused parliamentary debate.

Conservative opposition deputy leader Doug Anthony said Mr. Hawke's actions placed his former party colleague "under the blakest cloud imaginable."

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN

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NO EXTRA BONUS FOR OVERTRICKS

Neither vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♦ A 854
▼ 102
0 AQJ 5
+ 863

WEST
♦ 962
▼ K 8
0 1087 643
+ 109

SOUTH
♦ Q7
▼ AQJ 764
0 K 92
+ A 5

The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ 2 ♦
3 ♠ Pass 4 ♠ Pass
Pass Pass
Opening lead: Ten of ♦

Rubber bridge and duplicate are worlds apart. In the latter, you have to score as well or better than the other pairs who will be playing the same cards you do. In rubber bridge, making your contract is paramount.

The bidding was short and accurate. North was close to making a move over South's jump to three hearts, but caution prevailed and he was content with a simple raise to two.

West led the ten of clubs, and the catastrophe was soon over. South, an experienced

duplicate player, won the ace of clubs and led a diamond to the jack preparatory to trying the trump finesse. He never did get to take it.

East ruffed the diamond and returned a low club. Fortunately for the defenders, West held the nine of clubs. That served as an entry to give his partner a second diamond ruff and to rub salt into the wound. West was able to overruff the third round of clubs with the king of trumps and give partner another diamond ruff for down two. Very unfortunate, but only if you are playing duplicate.

The rubber bridge aficionado has no problem with the hand. He wins the ace of clubs and immediately bashes out ace of hearts and another. The defenders can take a club trick and one diamond ruff in addition to the king of trumps, but that is all for the defense. Declarer will get to discard his losing spade on the fourth diamond.

At duplicate, obviously, declarer cannot afford the safe line. He would look very silly if he made ten or eleven tricks when twelve were available by simply crossing to dummy and picking up the king of trumps via a finesse. Since that is what the rest of the field would be doing, any declarer who played safe would get a terrible score.

ABC

TV network tries to disprove theory East bloc plotted to kill Pope

NEW YORK (R) — A U.S. television news team is casting doubt on allegations that the shooting of Pope John Paul II two years ago was part of a Soviet-Bulgarian conspiracy.

Its report, which was shown on the ABC network Friday, says there are serious holes in evidence given by the Pope's would-be assassin, Mehmet Ali Agca, linking Bulgarians to the plot.

ABC also said that what has been offered as a possible reason for Soviet-Bulgarian involvement, a strongly worded letter on Poland from the Pope to Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev, was in fact never written.

The network released a transcript of the programme Thursday following four months of research that took reporters to 12 countries.

It said several people that Agca alleged he worked with in the conspiracy had alibis for the times the Turkish assailant claimed he met them.

It also said Agca's description of an apartment belonging to one of them, Bulgarian Sergei Antonov, took place, he would lay down the papal crown of St. Peter and return to Poland.

ABC, quoting high Vatican sources, said there was a spoken message delivered to Soviet officials

at a strategy meeting on May

1981, three days before the attempt on the Pope, has offered proof that she was not in Italy that day.

ABC said Mrs. Antonov claims

she left Italy on May 8 and was in Sofia the day of the alleged meeting. She has produced a bill from a Yugoslav hotel for the day before the supposed meeting and the entry in the hotel register.

But ABC noted that travel documents to confirm the date were not available.

Additionally, ABC said that Agca's description of her Rome apartment was wrong — it did not have sliding wood doors, although every other apartment in that building does.

In the Antonov apartment, ABC, the door was broken and replaced by a cloth curtain.

ABC quoted Vatican sources and Cardinal John Krol of Philadelphia as saying the Polish-born pontiff never wrote a letter in Russian to Brezhnev threatening that, if a Soviet invasion of Poland took place, he would lay down the papal crown of St. Peter and return to Poland.

ABC, quoting high Vatican sources, said there was a spoken message delivered to Soviet officials

China limits air travel for officials

PEKING (R) — China has cracked down on air travel by junior officials following the hijacking of one of its aircraft to South Korea last week, Chinese sources said Friday.

They said only county-level officials and above are now permitted to travel by plane under regulations introduced last Friday, a day after the hijack.

The Peking office of the national airline CAAC has introduced strict checks on passengers wishing to buy tickets, and long queues have formed as officials carefully examine identity cards of customers.

In the first official account of last week's hijacking, the New China News Agency said the hijackers had all committed previous offences including theft of firearms and fraud.

It said the ringleader grabbed the plane's controls for more than an hour so that it "kept clipping and climbing alternately and rocking from side to side."

Moscow raps opera singers

MOSCOW (R) — Members of one of the Soviet Union's leading provincial opera companies have been disciplined for performing in a Russian Orthodox Church choir in their spare time, a Moscow newspaper reported Friday.

The head of the theatre had also been severely reprimanded for failing to propagate atheism amongst the performers, it added.

Freezing, storing human embryos okayed in U.K.

LONDON (R) — The British medical profession, which in 1978 produced the world's first test-tube baby, Friday gave doctors the go-ahead to freeze and store human embryos for up to a year.

The British Medical Association (BMA), in a report offering guidelines to doctors, also advised that embryos used for scientific observation should not be allowed to grow for more than 14 days.

The report said that embryos could be frozen and thawed without damage, then they could be stored for up to 12 months.

Doctors say storing embryos could help prevent abnormal pregnancies. The embryo could be implanted in the womb at exactly the time in the woman's cycle that the egg was removed.

Warsaw says Wajda can continue directing films

WARSAW (R) — Poland's culture ministry has said it has no intention of banning film director Andrzej Wajda from working in the country despite sacking him from his post as head of a film studio.

Culture ministry press spokesman Andrzej Unger, quoted by the official news agency PAP, said Mr. Wajda had associated himself with attempts by the Western press to make political capital out of his dismissal.

Mr. Wajda's statement that the Polish authorities were trying to tell him he could no longer direct films in Poland was "unjustified, and contradicts truth and the intentions of the Polish film industry," the spokesman said.

He said that Mr. Wajda would continue to be assured in Poland "of such conditions for artistic work as an artist of his calibre needs."

Mr. Wajda's film "Man of Iron", which won the Golden Palm at Cannes film festival in 1981, was a fictional account of the birth of the now-banned trade union Solidarity and featured its leader Lech Walesa in a cameo role.

Meanwhile, members of Poland's award-winning "X" film unit have protested to the culture ministry over the sacking of Mr. Wajda.

In an open letter to Culture Minister Kazimierz Zygielski, made available to correspondents in Warsaw, the film workers said Mr. Wajda's dismissal contravened public opinion.

"The charge that the team was pursuing its own cultural policy was completely unreasonable in a situation where the culture and art ministry alone decided on scripts and approved completed films," the workers said.

The studio "X" workers' protest said the decision to dismiss Mr. Wajda had not been discussed with them beforehand, despite the fact that the government still talked about self-management.

Many people knew of forgery before Stern did

BONN (R) — A West German newspaper said Thursday a Stuttgart collector of Nazi memorabilia very probably wrote the purported Hitler diaries himself and sold them to Stern magazine for nine million marks (\$3.75 million). The diaries affair, told the newspaper that he personally handed over suitcases of cash to Fischer/Kujau and received two to three diaries each time in return.

The journalist received the final volume in April this year shortly before Stern announced their intention to publish the diaries.

Heidemann has denied accusations that he had "personally enriched himself with some of the funds Stern paid out for the supposed diaries.

"The publishers paid me 25,000 marks (\$10,000) for each delivery of the diaries which added up to 1.5 million marks (\$600,000). It was declared as an interest-free loan which I was not required to repay," he told the popular daily Bild Zeitung.

The Stuttgart Nachrichten said other reliable sources revealed that Fischer/Kujau's companion, Edith Liebhart, asked her employer for a few days leave last Saturday, the day after the diaries were officially declared to be forgeries, and neither had been seen since.

A Stuttgart professor, Eberhard Jaekel, told Reuters that Konrad Fischer had offered him the purported diaries of the Nazi dictator and a third volume of Hitler's treatise "Mein Kampf" in 1979.

Prof. Jaekel said Fischer claimed his brother was a general in the East German army. Heidemann also said that Fischer/Kujau claimed to have received the diary material from two brothers in East Germany, one a general and the other a museum director.

They turned out to be a railway porter and a museum caretaker. The sacked journalist said Thursday.

NEWS IN BRIEF

U.S. concerned about expulsions

WASHINGTON (R) — The U.S. has expressed concern to Saudi Arabia over the expulsion of five members of a private Christian group, a State Department spokesman said. Spokesman Alan Romberg said the five, including two Americans, were ordered to leave Saudi Arabia on May 9. In Manama, Bahrain, one of those expelled, American agricultural engineer Kenneth Smith said that, along with another American, the Rev. William Antablin, two Britons and a Lebanese, had been members of a Riyadh international Christian fellowship.

Irish fire hits British helicopter

ARMAGH, Northern Ireland (R) — Irish guerrillas opened fire Thursday night on a British army helicopter, hitting it several times and wounding a soldier but failing to bring it down, an army spokesman said. The provisional Irish Republican Army (IRA), which is fighting to end British rule in the province, later said it had launched the attack near Crossmaglen in County Armagh. About 10 gunmen were believed to have been involved in the attack. The helicopter managed to land at a military base, the army spokesman said.

New York church revealed as brothel

NEW YORK (R) — Police said Thursday that a church which ran a religion club for parishioners encouraging "sharing and loving" was in fact a brothel. The vice squad arrested the pastor of "the church of sharing", Daniel Lander, another man described as a self-ordained minister of the church, a woman assistant and six prostitutes in an early morning raid at the church's Manhattan headquarters. Lander, 40, was charged with running a prostitution ring. District attorney Robert Morgenthau said the church had never held religious services but solicited "parishioners" to join its religion-in-action club, the "midnight matinée."

Crocodile turns up in town centre

CAIRNS, Australia (R) — A crocodile reared up from the gutter in the centre of Cairns Friday and grabbed 19-year-old Barry Robertson, on his way home from a nightclub, managed to fight off the 1.2 metre beast with the help of a passing taxi driver. Police said his long leather cowboy boots saved him from injury. The crocodile escaped down a drain in this tropical resort town on the North Queensland coast. A police spokesman said: "We occasionally get them around the town after heavy rain but they don't normally bother you unless you frighten them."

The case of the stored excrement

GENOA, Italy (R) — A magistrate fined a Genoese student 750,000 lire (\$500) for emptying a sack of excrement over the head of a cleaning lady, while she was tidying an apartment. Andrea Vignola, who lived next door, said in his defence that he entered the apartment to determine the cause of an unbearable stench and asked the cleaner in a fit of rage after he discovered excrement piled in sacks. Police said they found more than 150 kilogrammes of excrement which had been stored in the apartment over several years by two elderly ladies after their water closet became blocked.

Green-haired girl won't pass test

NOTTINGHAM, England (R) — A schoolgirl has been banned from taking an examination because she dyed her hair with streaks of green. Jo-Ann Foote, 16, needs to pass the test to be accepted for a college course in window-dressing. But Nottingham's Valley School says no one with a punk hairstyle can